

Td
Ambleton
2/6/2

The Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside,
Westmorland.

Item C3/6

21st June, 1956

Dear

The Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation have asked me to convey to you with very great regret the decision which has been forced upon them to raise the College fees next term owing to the greatly increased cost of living and the considerable rise in the Burnham Scale of lecturers' salaries which latter is to take effect from October 1st of this year.

The new fees will be £70. per term.

The Council is aware, of course, that it is usual to give a term's notification of increase in fees but you will have seen in the press that the announcement of the proposed steep rise in the scale of salaries has been made since Easter. It has consequently been impossible to give the customary notification.

In a case of real hardship (of which proof should be offered) the Council would be prepared to remit a portion of the increase. The situation could also be reviewed in the light of the possibility of a loan from one of the Loan Funds which exist for the purpose of helping girls to be trained for a career.

May I point out to you that although an increase of fees is now necessary, the financial position of your daughter, when she is qualified, will be greatly strengthened by the increase in the Burnham Scale of salaries. What is lost now will very quickly be regained.

I would like to add that I share the deep regret of the Council in having to make this increase.

Yours sincerely,

MARY HARDCASTLE

Principal

Tel.
Ambleside
2168

The Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside,
Westmorland.

Ref: Enc 316

MH/JMV.

18th September, 1957.

Dear

I am enclosing a copy of the Ministry's Report which no doubt you would like to consider before the meeting on Monday next.

There are two main considerations, the first is finance and the other is staffing. Under these headings there is much detail to be considered and I am enclosing a draft copy of the balance sheet.

As you will see we are in quite a good position at the moment as we are feeling the advantage of the raising of the fees in September, 1956. I am afraid that the current year will not be so good, in fact the finances do not promise to be at all easy. We have to take three students less because of accommodation. You may remember that last year we fitted in seven more students in order to adjust the numbers in the years as there had been only eight third year students the year before. We were able to do this because of the additional accommodation in the Greenbank Cottages but we were over-full.

This year we are taking three less students and would have taken even fewer but for two reasons, one being that I had a communication from the Ministry asking me to squeeze in as many students as I could! Secondly the Fairfield numbers will be very much down. This is due to a number of reasons, instead of £21,406 the fees for the past year, we only expect to receive something like £19,667p this coming year. The position may improve during the year but nevertheless it is a serious thing. We have unfortunately lost three children through the incident at Hill Top last term and also we had a large number of girls due to leave from our top form. Last Christmas we had no less than five girls on the waiting list for Hill Top and the parents had to send them elsewhere. The numbers do fluctuate from time to time.

Expenses are going up all the time. The new postage rates

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will make a great deal of difference to the P.U.S. and to us. The National Health contribution rates have gone up and the new Laboratory will cost all that much more. Inflation particularly hits an independent institution.

Staffing is a major problem. Full employment means it is exceedingly difficult to get staff. We advertised three times for a graduate teacher for the School on Full Burnham Scale salary and we had one answer. The supply of local women for our household needs is more difficult to get owing to the fact that a small factory has been established in Ambleside. The question of the payment of staff is also a major one. Last year the Education Lecturer was doing a course in Manchester which meant she could not give us much time and that fell rather heavily on me. All this will need our careful attention.

Nevertheless we have a full College with some good students and the community is thriving in all the important ways. The Report deals very fully with the accommodation and I need say nothing more about that here.

I will try to draw up a simple form of agenda which will cover all these points.

Yours sincerely,

Principal.

Mrs. H.C. Walton,
"Galleons",
Higher Lane,
MUMBLES, Swansea.

tel.
Ambleside
2168

* FEE LETTER

The Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside,
Westmorland

20th February, 1958.

Dear

It is with much regret that the Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation feel obliged to raise the College fees to £25/- per annum (£86. per term) from September, 1958.

It is not only because salaries are going up with the additions towards equal pay, but in order to meet the Ministry of Education requirements we have had to embark on certain improvements which have involved both capital expenditure and additions to the running expenses of the College.

It is a matter of concern to the College that we have to make this addition to our finances in order to make both ends meet. We are sure you will appreciate however that even with this increase the fees are very low compared with other Colleges, and those students who are receiving financial help from their Local Authority should receive additional aid from that source. The sum of £86. per term is divided equally into £43. board fees and £43. tuition fees.

Yours sincerely,

[#] Note:- copy put in Bennetts file - (1st file in Cabinet)

Copy. M.M.

4pm 21st March 22nd

Dear Miss Divingstone (1953)

You will remember that when you sent me, in January, your resignation from the Head-mistress-ship of the Practising School (senior department), I acknowledged your letter at once, unofficially, & told you I would put it before the next meeting of the Charlotte Mason Foundation.

That meeting was last Wed. March 20th when your letter of resignation was read to the members of the Foundation.

I am now writing officially, and on behalf of the Foundation to say that we accept your resignation in these ways. We accept it with regret that you feel the time has come that you should leave us; we accept

7, 11/1936

With much gratitude for all
the years you have given us
for the splendid work you have
done; and we accept it with
the happiness and success
in all your future work.

I am sorry you should have
had to wait so long for the
official reply to your letter, but
I expect you know that, at the
moment, the Charlotte Mason
Foundation normally meets
only twice a year.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Geraldine M. Wallin

Chairman
Charlotte Mason Foundation

15/5/58/16
MH/ST.

PERSONAL

17th May, 1958.

A. S. Miles Davies, Esq., C.B.,
Ministry of Education,
Teachers' Branch,
36-38 Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.

Dear Mr. Miles Davies,

The Governing Body of this College is giving serious consideration to the future of the College and it is very necessary that this should be done in view of the compulsory three year course which we hope will be implemented in 1960. Mrs. Walton, the Chairman of the Governing Body would much appreciate it if you were able to grant us a personal interview. There are a number of problems which face us and as a sub-committee of the Governing Body is meeting in early July to consider these points, it is important that we should have some contact with the Ministry before then.

We hesitate to make the following suggestion as it is such short notice but it so happens that both Mrs. Walton and I have to be in London this next week and we wonder if by any chance it would be possible to have an appointment sometime on either Wednesday May 21st or Thursday May 22nd before 4 p.m. We will make any time possible but if there is any chance, Wednesday morning is not quite so convenient.

We realise, of course, that this suggestion is probably quite impossible but we venture to make it as we both live so far from London. We would have written before but I have only just heard from Miss H.C. Rankin H.M.I. that you are the person we should approach.

I will ring up on Monday afternoon to ask your secretary if there is any possibility of an arrangement being made. If not, we must hope for an appointment later on.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Confidential -

^{is placed}
Be to Rankin

May 23rd 1950 -

Dear Mr. Rankin.

You will naturally have heard from Mr. Handcarter that we flew over to Mr. Minstly's brother Mr. Florman in Wexford early last.

We were very disappointed not to see Mr. Florman who had granted us an appointment, instead of Mr. Miles Barnes, whom we were told, was away ill.

We saw Miss Bell together with Mr. Gaylin. They were very kind the park, but on reflection as

16 p 2 cm c 3/6

is the future of the League before them
and however feel that both parties
were rather at a disadvantage
because they had told us when we
arrived that Mr. Glazebrook was with
the Secretary would join us "in
a few minutes". After waiting - for
an hour & a half - that he would
appear at any moment, we had
to leave without seeing him at all.
I appreciated that this situation was
just as difficult for him as for
Mr. Guyot - as for us!

Though our conversation may
have served to clear some
of our minds ~~and thoughts~~ (not so)

may be a useful intermediary. I
honestly do not feel that Mr. B. has
had much sympathy for what the
College is trying to do, or any under-
standing of the continuation we are
still able to make to Education as
a whole. Indeed, I could not help
wondering if he had ever heard
of Charlotte Mason or knew anything
of her philosophy!

We felt they were being very
biased, they probably, ignorant as
anything else in the circumstances,
for this reason we were disappointed
not to see ~~someone~~ in higher
authority. I felt we were
regarded as something ^{well meaning} ~~not a little~~

ibp4anc316

precious - a closed community, almost - who had no knowledge of the outside world with present day requirements, which, as I am sure you will agree, is not a true picture of our situation. I trust no final decision will result from this interview & that we may perhaps be given another opportunity for seeing the Master bairns.

I gather that on our short, going to Lancaster & I should be no prattler if you would have a talk with Miss Lancaster about this.

I have looked out your last letter to me, written after our meeting in London. I am sending this

to his address or give me time. It looks written like a private address. If it is, then you will forgive this intrusion on your time & privacy.

More & as well that we may have an opportunity of meeting again.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Waller

P.S. I should add that we did realize in his conversation that his position is not a hopeful one as the tendency seems to be to favour larger stronger church units.

Yours etc

17/6/68 (T)

Dr. Harry
Winn for
you
when
we
are
here
found
when
we
are
here
when
we
are
here

Wed. 4th June. 1968.

Barlow Hardy -

Well - we do see

life! I had more than an hour
with Miss Skelliam at Homerton
this morning. She presented me
with the enclosed literature
which you may like to see.
No hurry for its return - I'll give
it in July when I come. The
literature answers many of your
questions, & we can discuss more
when I come because I've got time
to write a full report which could
fill pages & pages & you won't want
to read it! When I left at 1145
Courtney took me straight into
the train when I got a cup from

had a large envelope.

Miss S. is a grand old gal — a great character I should think, no one could have been kinder, more friendly & forthcoming.

The only point in which I knew a complete break was in her new 3rd year course. When I asked about it she said "Secret negotiations were going on with the University & ~~obtaining~~ I don't know what her reason with us" I noticed she had gone a deep flush suddenly (for the first time of life!) so I gathered she felt she had already said too much & I changed the subject.

The whole set up is quite fantastic — his realization of all this means in every way.

e.g. Mrs W. kindly, feeling her way while balancing an egg-size clivia coffee cup of rare design, "How lovely your pyrethriums are" Mrs S. kindly surveyed a vast Constance Spray arrangement of same. "Oh yes we have a more field of them & flowers for decorations round the rooms". Mrs W. casting envious eyes on acres & acres of close-crop velvet, lawns. Miss S. interjecting her look, "Yes we have a very clever head gardener. She is quite a 'typy' woman for S- agricultural College & she has 6 men under her whom she manages - just like that" a smooth flakening up gesture. (A good thing I was up myself - otherwise I would have

inf 4 cmc 16

notably caught you up & puzzled.
She has invited me to go again
next time I'm here to see more
& specially in fresh houses & any
thing else. In appearance she
looks like a benevolent old
lady with a short & slender body
large bespectacled eyes & veranda
teeth & a mild smile definitely
elderly, but she moves very
fast when showing or round
formal quilt hand work to keep
up. But I liked her so much
she has a nice sense of
humor & appreciates a mild dig.
I think she's very shrewd
indeed. Her remarks about how
her "students worked in at all
injury next week at the May Ball"
showed she was under no delusions!

(3)

17p5omes316

Now for some hard facts.

They are over 300 students.

They can take them pick - I think
she said ^{of the} it was something like
1 in 10 ^{of the} applicants.

Those who come have an for
2 generally 3 subjects at A-level
& have had 2 years in VI form.
They have complete freedom for
h.E.A.s

The grant for Univ Ed. is
per capita for tuition & maintenance
assessed on family income.

The ranges for local Chancery
duty are to "one or living with
an old grannie" — grant accordingly.

Roughly it works out that in
10 students share a study bed-
room. There is a large house

over the way - ordinary residential
house where the rooms are large
& they share. In Hamilton itself
which was built as Cavendish
College for men with one large
study bedroom already for them
the students each have a single
bedroom - the bookcase & writing
desk in the drawers are on parquet.
Each room has radiator & down
bed, easy chair ^{desk chair} & food in
cupboard. Bathrooms are all
opposite side of corridor with shower
rooms & basin rooms - (2 students
to a basin!) ironing rooms,
airing & drying rooms (I saw one
of each, low & long about a
She says (what we feel) that
most of the rooms are a misery
& perfect. This place may be to

(4)

Sept 7th 1936

show willing to do what you can!
e.g. Mr. & Mrs. want them to spend
£150,000 on a new science block
they have no intention of doing so.
It looks rather like "the more you
do - the more you may do!"

The trustees meet once a month
- a financial committee - who
showed me last month's accounts.
They tell me we only have £100,000.
a.m.m. I didn't have time to
have a very long ^{of a few} ~~of a few~~ time was
not long to allow me a close
perusal, naturally, longer would find
me with every in the credit side
was the long list of stocks &
shares & holdings in various
Companies of which I could not

The students are merely free -
by friends allowed in an
gorgeously appointed common room.
They are allowed up in 10:30 p.m.
very infar - after that special
events within reason, & out
of infar in May week - see
above! For freedom of choice in
subjects & courses see literature.
I've got down in my head that
tuition fees are £300 per annum but
this doesn't seem to be up
with the prospect, but I've not
read it very carefully,
I am a bit muzzy after a long
afternoon in the sun watching
the May Races. Incidentally I
ran into Sheila Barwick (McVan)
on Willow Corner but we only had

(5)

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time for a short stay as we had
to get back & change for a party.
So nice to see her & she was a
friendly - had her fukinā & 3olae
chilauca with her.

Incidentally, Mrs S. told me if
you want to build or have to
cost for £1,000 per place. i.e. a
new block to house 50 students
is roughly £5,000. Mrs Mengar
talked from bows & people were
dined with etc. the last few
nights, that Horner has a project
with Mengar of a song or other,
they all seemed to have met
& known Mrs S. who is on all
kinds of things. They have an
of the best collections of modern

Wickham in Camb. & Mrs S. told
me she had bought a new one
only yesterday. The students were
doing exams so I only saw a few
& thought they looked so nice. She
tells me they are a wealthy college
& I think it was between £11,200⁰⁰
spent on new books for their library
every year! She has no staffing
difficulties on the Academic side -
Pelham of course but according to
her, people clamour to come! The
chef has been there for ages
& of course they have periodic
difficulties with domestic staff
because with an old college
nearly them - well you can
imagine the competition.
She did say one very interesting

(6.)

7/11/06 3/6

source of income was what she called "or furnishing hotel rooms" which she said was an entirely business in Cambridge & people always having conference every vac.

I quite see why Mrs B & G. Minger are asked to see Hamilton!!! As far as we (amblerias) go its quite the last helpful one because obviously, there is no shingle anywhere. Their high standard of maintenance & condition - I went there & with description of their lecture room equipment etc. the specimens & entire set-up proclaims wealth & favour & no worries at all. In some ways I came away

17/12/2016

leisure, expressed - it was all so
perfect & ideal. But she was so
friendly & nice & I felt I really ~~had~~
had to talk & see her blooming green
houses. I was very careful in
what I said about ~~the us~~, & she
did most of the talking & was
obviously pleased to be able to
show us such a good show.
But she did imply that her son
& Ed. would want ~~ever~~, because
they could lay hands on for many
years yet, & again I felt if we
are ever wealthy we have to give
her some money somehow, with
something in her end.
I wouldnt have minded at all for
worlds but I don't think I've done
any good! Stop this won't be long
I'm young. Much but get



VINCENT KNOWLER, M.A. VK/MH
Registrar

• 18cm x 16
FROM
THE REGISTRAR,
THE UNIVERSITY,
MANCHESTER, 13
Telephone: ARDwick 3333

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

June 19th, 1958.

Dear Miss Hardcastle,

You will have seen references in the press to the Ministry of Education's proposals for expanding training colleges and their request for speedy action. It seems to us in Manchester that now that this has been made public, it is time for the Charlotte Mason College to take appropriate action. Dr. Wiseman and I would suggest that the Governing Body should consider an immediate application to the Local Education Authority to see what the possibilities are of becoming grant-aided. This line of action, if I remember rightly, was the sort of thing the Ministry put before you on your visit to London. I know that Mrs. Walton and yourself have reservations and the Council may very well have them too, but I think the issue is so important that it ought to be raised without delay and the College might be prejudiced in any future negotiations if this were not done.

If this suggestion were to meet with the approval of the Governors and if - to consider the worst possibility - the L.E.A. refused to help, then I think the Ministry might well be approached again. In those circumstances, the Ministry would surely find it more difficult to refuse a request for voluntary status, which might mean the death sentence for one college whilst all others were given assistance.

Please regard this letter as very confidential though of course I should naturally wish you to show it to Mrs. Walton.

We perhaps ought to call a meeting of the Council at Ambleside on the date fixed for the Sub-committee. The matter is so important, I feel, that it cannot brook delay.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Mary Hardcastle,
Principal,
Charlotte Mason College,
AMBLESIDE, Westmorland.

Miss Mary Hardcastle

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COPY

Personal and Confidential

From The Registrar
The University
Manchester
June 19th 1958

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Yours sincerely

Vincent K"owles

Miss Mary Hardcastle,
Principal,
Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside, Westmorland.

510/10/1968

GALLEONS,
HIGHER LANE,
MUMBLES, SWANSEA.

June 22nd
1968.

SWANSEA 68443.

Barling Hardy.

Here is a copy for you
of his letter I sent. I've put in an
open point & added a few of my
own. Also I made one or two alterations
e.g. bearing in mind the "very
confidential" nature of V.K.'s letter. I
put "it is obvious" instead of "there
been told". In any case, it should
be obvious to any one with 2 an eye!

I have sent one to V.K. & also
a covering letter thanking him for
his & you & me for his help.
Had a very satisfactory clear to him

110p20mc316

on his plane yesterday morning.
I think we are more than likely to let
be it is who rep's Manchester on our
P.M.F. He is invaluable.

He also very much approves of your
having an "if his record clear with
Mr. Clarke. I feel this is most important.
The first question every one will want
to ask is, what does it involve?
Conveyay is typing some of his
letters for me & I'm along some
with carbon paper & we have to get
these in with him late afternoon
but today & have most people willing
him tomorrow by 2nd post.

I wish you hadn't got to do a
memorandum on lots of waylaying

else, but I do not think any one
else can do it. You are the only
person who knows his whole history
for A-Z. But I am worried about
you & the phantasy because you are
carrying into an him awful
inevitably & the early frustrations
& worries. I only wish I could do
more to help you. Please make
it as short as possible & try not
to run to much oil. Taking a
general view, I honestly believe
his situation is more hopeful
than in March, but we have
a very tricky passage before us
& can't afford to put a foot wrong
now. I think this may well be his

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final shura in the storm things
may clear considerably after this.
It is uncertainly what is to
worrying for you to worry.
But I think we can reasonably
hope that quite soon we'll either
know that we must close down,
or else we shall get some help.
Things will go on.

I am very inarticulate &
stupid, but I am concerned
for you in your present situation
I think about you a great deal
try to see how we can help.

Very much love Handley
thru too much undrinking oil, if
you please.

Ge

22 June 1958.

22 June 1958
Galleons,
Higher Lane,
Lumbles,
Swansea.
Swansea 68443.

Dear Miss Handcastle.

After a visit to the Ministry of Education last month, and having received strong representation from Manchester University, I am persuaded that it is right to call an Emergency Meeting of the Charlotte Mason Foundation in Ambleside at 10 a.m. on July 5th, when the sub-committee is due to meet there in any case.

The Ministry has now made public their proposals for expanding Teachers' Training Colleges to meet the serious shortage of teachers which is expected during the next ten years or so. (Vide Sunday Times of 19 June, also other papers during this week).

The matter is extremely urgent as it is obvious that the College might be prejudiced in any future negotiations if we did not explore the situation now, and if possible take action. You will remember that at the last meeting I spoke of my anxiety as to the future of the College & as to how long we could continue without some form of financial help.

I am trying to discover in private conversations what it would involve if we approached the Local Education Authority. From the point of view of the student intake the matter is also very urgent as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find well qualified, or even reasonably qualified, students who are ready and willing to pay the fees. The staffing condition is also acute and especially with regard to the Practising School.

So much has happened since G.M.F. met in March that I feel it is most important that all our problems should be reviewed now, unhurriedly & on the spot. We cannot possibly afford to wait until our November meeting.

I have asked Miss Handcastle to produce a memorandum, which will show you how urgent the situation has become, upon which we can base our agenda.

I realise that this is short notice & that a journey to Ambleside may not be convenient, but we have reached a crucial point in the history of the College and School and the problems confronting us are ones which require the utmost help from every member of the Foundation. If it is impossible for you to come to the meeting, would you please be kind enough to send me your comments, preferably here by July 4th, or else to me at College by July 5th.

Yours sincerely,

Fulcania Waller.

(Fulcania Waller)